

### Remarks

#### Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The examiner rejected claims 189, 194-195, 201, 206-207, and 209, as indefinite.

According to the examiner, the phrases 189, 201, and 209 are the phrases "two or more carbon atoms" and "at least 2 carbon atoms" are vague and indefinite because the specification does not elaborate the upper limit range for how many carbon atoms can be separated by oxygen or ester group. The claims have been amended in a manner which is believed to overcome the rejection.

The examiner also contends that there is insufficient antecedent basis for "a spacer group" in claims 194-195 and 206-207. Claims 194-195 and 206-207 are canceled. However, Applicant submits that p. 4, ll. 15-23 reads as follows (emphasis added):

As used herein, the phrase "terminal functionalities" refers to X and Y where the referenced molecules are platform molecules. **"Terminal functionalities" are defined as protective groups and precursors to polymerizable groups, which generally comprise functionalities that readily react with "polymerizable groups" to form reactive ends.** Suitable terminal functionalities independently are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, and **"spacer groups"**, defined herein as selected from the group consisting of H-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-O- groups, Cl(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-O- groups, Br(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-O- groups, I(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-O-, wherein n is from about 2 to about 12, preferably from about 2 to about 9, more preferably from about 2 to about 6, and most preferably 6, and the CH<sub>2</sub> groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group. Most preferred terminal functionalities are hydroxyl groups.

The foregoing specifically contemplates that spacer groups will "readily react with "polymerizable groups." The reaction product of a spacer group with a polymerizable group is seen in the figure at line 10 of page 6 and in the final structure in Scheme 2.

Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of all of the pending claims. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0997 (SWRI-2835-07), maintained by Paula D. Morris & Associates, P.C..

Respectfully submitted,



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